

# THE GARDEN ISLAND

Issued Every Tuesday Morning

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Editor

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 28

## The Civic Convention

Kauai has had her first Civic Convention experience, and, in the language of the post sentry at the hour, "All is well."

That is to say: "All is well" insofar as Kauai is concerned, and we are hopeful that our recent guests may feel, in some measure at least, the same way about it.

For this island the visit of the delegations from the various parts of the group was a most delightful treat. The party was not too large nor too small for the comfort of all concerned. Reports from all over the reception area (which included most of the eastern and southern rim of the island) unanimously have it that there was not the slightest over-crowding anywhere, and that all of the hosts, respectively, were simply delighted with their guests of the two days.

It may, therefore, be summed up as the general verdict of Kauai that as a social proposition the Civic Convention was a very great success.

The question of what has been accomplished by the discussion of "Civic Righteousness" can only be answered in part at this time. Certainly the reports from various islands were interesting and of a character to "set one thinking"; and there are reasons to believe that genuine and permanent good may come of it all. Undoubtedly moral uplift is needed, and if a campaign with that end in view is in contemplation, certainly the co-operation of the civic bodies of the islands is important.

The Convention has been of benefit in another way—in bringing together some of the clearest thinkers of the group. Tourist promotion is a fine thing, but ahead of that, to our minds over here on Kauai, is the little matter of getting better acquainted with ourselves in the Islands and with our own conditions. The Civic Convention tends in that direction, and in bringing about a reasonable degree of that result the late gathering has scored well.

Individually, the members of the Convention from Honolulu and the other islands have established permanent friendships here, and they may be assured of a hearty welcome whenever inclination may lead them our way again in the future.

## The Slump In Sugar

The decline in the price of sugar at this time will not have a very serious effect upon Hawaii for the reason that all of our product, save for tail end shipments, has been marketed. Concern is felt, however, for the future—for January and February when this country will again have heavy stocks in the market.

The present decline is probably due to two causes. First, the effort to open the Dardanelles, which, if accomplished, would insure a supply of sugar to Great Britain and France for an indefinite period. Second, and perhaps most important, the near time when Cuba will come into the market with her record output of nearly 3,000,000 tons of sugar. Added to the latter, too, is the expectation that the beet sugar yield in the United States will be much greater this autumn than ever before.

The situation brings again directly before us the urgent necessity of renewed efforts to defeat free sugar, which is due to befall us next May. It is plain that without a protective duty the sugar industry on the mainland and in these Islands would not be able to stand; and that fact should be constantly and persistently put forward. We do not believe that delegations to Washington and press bureaux would or could be effective. Letters of citizens to members of Congress who were recently here would, however, be effective. The Congressmen left here much interested in the subject of so much concern to us, and many of them would undoubtedly feel disposed to follow up the matter in a favorable way if it were kept before them.

## Kauai And The Road Question

Kauai probably owes an apology to the other islands for feeling and manifesting in the Civic Convention so little interest in the subject of roads. From the way the program worked itself out it seems doubtful that the subject would have been touched upon at all had it not appeared in a report of a hold-over committee from previous conventions.

This island has roads with which it is fairly well satisfied; and even if not satisfied with their condition at every point and at all times, it has confidence that whatever defects there may be will be remedied speedily and in a satisfactory manner. The road department is pegging away all the time and it will be only a matter of two or three years when the so called belt road will appear as a monument to its ingenuity and industry.

There has been nothing unusual behind the success of Kauai in road-making, unless, indeed, plain, hard-headed, business sense and thrift may be regarded as unusual. The county authorities have gone about it with the same care and earnestness that they have put into other matters under their direction, and the results speak in the same way.

Road-building is a matter which each county must solve for itself. It occurs to us here to be a business proposition, to be worked out in a business-like way. If the work is to be handicapped by lack of interest or incompetence or politics, it will suffer in proportion to the presence of those retarding influences.

As near as we are able to gather from our best authorities, the only antidote Kauai has to offer for unsatisfactory roads is: "Less politics, less talk and more work of the right sort."

## A Military Object Lesson

No more forceful illustration of the unpreparedness of the United States army for critical situations, or large undertakings, need be asked than is now presented along the Texas border. There practically the entire mobile army of the country is concentrated, under General Funston; and seems to have its hands full in keeping in check the lawless raids of Mexican bands. With the regular army are Texas Rangers and Texas civilians, supposed to be among the best rough-and-tumble fighters we have. Nevertheless this large and seemingly efficient force has proved unequal to the task, to the extent, at least, that the raiding has become more frequent and daring.

This brings up a question: If it takes the whole mobile army of the United States to handle small bands of raiders, what is to be done in case an invasion of Mexico is decided upon? There has for a long time been an idea that Mexican resistance would amount to little, but thinking men know that that is loose talk and the task would be far less easy than the howlers for action would have us believe. There is a popular belief, also, that one regiment of American soldiers is as good as three or four Mexican regiments—but is that true? The Mexican soldiers are trained, hardened fighters, through years of the present war; a majority of American soldiers, perhaps, are inexperienced in the actual business of killing.

Of course the United States could defeat Mexico; but the present racket along the Texas border brings us squarely up to the fact that we would have to have a bigger and better army than any now in the field to do it with.

"CIVIC RIGHTEOUSNESS," the subject so ably handled by the late Convention, is a condition of slow development, on which account no important results are to be expected from the discussion for sometime to come. Agitation along the lines suggested by the speakers may come, however, from the discussion and may lead, in time, to the goal sought. Certainly the discussion was entertaining.

ILLUSTRATING the bitterness of feeling in European countries on account of the war, the following probably takes first place:

Udine, Italy.—The imperial Austro-Hungarian commissioner governing Trieste has issued a decree ordering "for esthetic reasons" the removal of the monument to Verdi, the Italian composer, which in white marble adorns the Piazza San Giovanni. In its place the commissioner has ordered the erection of a fountain which for "hygienic reasons" is to wash the spot where the Verdi statue stood.

SOME OF our late visitors seemed to be surprised that Kauai had a brass band. We have three very excellent bands on this island—the Lihue, the Kalaheo and the Waimea. Only the Lihue band was invited into service for a short time as it was desired that the Hawaiian band from Honolulu have the full "right of way."

THE SUGGESTION by a member of the Civic Convention that a rest house in Waimea Canyon would be a good thing is appreciated, and the matter will be taken up without delay by the Kauai Chamber of Commerce. If it is found that the rest house is feasible and desirable it will be built.

A SOLDIER is taking a Kona "nightingale" to the mainland, so we are informed. We know of no objection at this end of the line, and if Mr. William Jennings Bryan does not object to the competition thus threatened, the goose will still hang high.

THE MUSIC of the Hawaiian band was not much in evidence but the visit of the band boys was appreciated just the same.

## Mr. Raymond Coming

School Inspector Geo. S. Raymond will arrive on Kauai tomorrow for a tour of the schools. He will land at Waimea and will visit all parts of the island before returning to Honolulu.

## Leavitts To Coast

Captain and Mrs. George B. Leavitt, of Elelee, have gone to the coast to take in the Exposition and tour California. They will be away two or three months.

## Land Patents

The following land patents have been granted for Kauai parties: No. 6444, Minnie Aka, lot No. 26, Lawai; No. 6445, Manuel P. Jerves, lot No. 69, same locality.

## ADDRESS OF WELCOME

(Continued from page 1.)

Delegates to the Fourth Annual Civic Convention and our Guests!

It is my privilege to formally welcome you to the "Garden Isle" and to assure you that you have landed on friendly shores. The people of Kauai are deeply interested in you as guests, and also in the purpose that has prompted your coming. It is our earnest desire that every hour of your visit be an hour of pleasure and profit, and that you feel truly that you are friends among friends.

It would have been a real pleasure to our people to have entertained double your number, but I believe everyone here will realize how impossible that would be. There are no large hotels to house great numbers of people, and at the present time we are utilizing all available accommodation. We would welcome the whole Territory if we were sure we could give them the care and personal attention that Kauai always endeavors to give to her guests. When our tourist traffic increases we shall have accommodations and facilities for handling conventions—until that time we must make the best possible use of what we have.

It is a great satisfaction to feel that we have met here today with a common purpose. It is an inspiration in itself to have such a body of representative men, representing the interest and enthusiasm of still greater numbers, who are working unselfishly for civic betterment and the public welfare. The organizations which you represent are the progressive forces of our civic life, and hold unlimited power and influence for moulding the thought and opinions of the whole Territory.

The desire to discuss intelligently a great issue has drawn you over the turbulent waters of the island channels. Such steadfastness and courage should be rewarded. We hope that tangible results may follow these deliberations and that each man of you will be glad for having had a part in this particular convention.

The theme of the convention is not a sensational theme. Civic Righteousness invites constructive criticism. Civic Wrongs would be a red flag to the man who be-

## Committees Meet

A meeting of the committees of the Kauai Chamber of Commerce on Civic Convention was held in the district court room at Lihue Wednesday afternoon at which final reports were received and the plans of the various committees discussed. Except for meetings of individual committees, this brought the work of preparing for the Convention to a close.

## A Coming Wedding

The engagement of Superintendent Wolf, of the Lawai cannery, and Miss Helen Bryant, teacher in the Makaweli school, has been announced. The wedding will take place shortly.

believes in "calling a spade a spade," and then proceeds to libel the spade by calling it a crow-bar or pick-axe.

The men not interested in Civic Righteousness are those who fear inspection, those who adopt the "laissez faire" policy, and those who have made pre-election pledges that remain unfulfilled.

After a heavy storm a wife, who had found it necessary to sleep under an umbrella because of a leaky roof, urged her husband to send for the landlord.

"John," she said, "you must get the landlord here to see the damage the rain has done to the ceiling."

"I can't," replied the troubled husband, "without letting him see the damage the children have done to the rest of the house."

And there are scoffers of Civic Righteousness who fear that in showing the ceiling they will uncover marred woodwork and missing doorknobs of civic responsibility.

One day an Irishman was enjoying a drink of whiskey when he was approached by a long-faced temperance reformer, who said:

"Whiskey, my friend, has killed more men than bullets."

"That may be," replied Pat, "but, behajers, I'd rather be full of whiskey than bullets."

Our "laissez faire" advocates would prefer the whiskey of indifference to the bullets of action and public spirit.

The third type of man who finds Civic Right wrong is the hero of the following story:

An irate man dashed into a clothing store.

"Look at this suit!" Two weeks wear, and now its all out of shape and rusty-looking."

"Vell," replied the dealer, "didn't I tote you that suit veer like iron?"

The man who has been most lavish with election promises tries to crawl out on very similar pretexts, and often his logic is even less convincing.

Civic Righteousness can only be achieved by hard, determined and conscientious effort. Jacob Riis has said, "We, as a people, have provided in the Republic a means of fighting for our rights and getting them and it is our business to do it. We shall never get them in

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